Prophetic Newsletter No. 13: "My Lord Delayeth His Coming"

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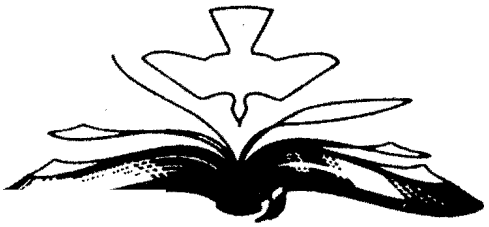

"Holding forth the WORD of LIFE" Phil. 2:16

Sept, 1984

Dear Friends in Christ:

Greetings in the wonderful Name of Jesus! There are several matters which I want to share with you in this newsletter. I will get to the "title" later, but first I want to make some comments on America's space shuttle flights. I am still very convinced that God is forshadowing important spiritual events to take place by these flights. I followed the first two flights of the Columbia and made comments in past newsletters on the symbolism which I believe was portrayed. I had intended to try to examine the details of each flight and see what the Lord might reveal in possible spiritual symbolism. However, when the third flight went up I was involved in a family reunion, busy with many things, etc., and did'nt even hear or read hardly any of the reports of that flight. If I remember correctly, the next flight came at a time when I was out of town and again got very little news on it. Since the continuity was lost, I just didn't continue to follow through on the other flights.

On the last flight of the "Challenger" (America's second shuttle vehicle) there was a "first" in space which I believe was definitely God's preview of spiritual things to come. Two astronaut's, space suits on, were strapped to "in-board" powered space vehicles equiped with instruments which enabled the astronauts to maneuver themselves wherever they wanted, and which allowed them to go "unteathered" to the mother ship and "fly" free in space for the first time in man's space experiences. What a picture in prophetic symbolism of that which will take place in the near future when firstfruit saints with glorified bodies (vehicles) which will have the power to "fly" or maneuver any where in space, "unteathered" (without the gravitational "tie" to "speace ship earth". Since there were two men who so functioned on that flight, so does this picture the two groups who will be given glorified "power-machines" (bodies). First, the "firstfruits company" at the beginning of the tribulation, and then the "harvest company" at the close of the tribulation. It is also symbolically significant that these "free flights" took place from the space ship "Challenger". For it is when the firstfruit saints are translated and get their glorified "free flight" bodies that Satan will first be challenged in the heavenlies and defeated by Michael and his angels, being cast down to the earth (Rev. 12:5, 7-12). Then, following, during the tribulation, when Satan develops the Beast system to its full power, it will also be challenged in all-out war by spirit-empowered nations such as America and a few others, and the Russian led Beast nations will be brought to desolation (Rev. 16:10-11).

The title of this newsletter was given to me some time ago, but I did not know just what the Lord wanted me to say. However, a couple of nights ago, I believe the Lord spoke to me, in essence: "Tell my people why my delayed return to this earth is not only necessary, but forseen and planned for from the beginng." If this is true, then there must of necessity be some evi-

was apparently near. One "sign" was that in the June, 1967, 6 day war, the Israel army captured the entire city of Jerusalem--half of which had been under Arab control until that time. This meant that for the first time Jerusalem was no longer "trodden down" by the Gentiles since it was destroyed by Nebachadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C., and thus indicating that possibly the "times of the Gentiles" had come to an end (see Luke 21:24), and that this age was about over. There was the impact in the 60's of the dramatic "Jesus movement" among multiplied thousands of young people, the "charismatic movement" which reached into most traditional "main-line" denominations with the message of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit--even the wide-spread Catholic charismatic movement. There were a number of signs on the world scene that I won't take the time to go into, except to mention that the Vietnam war became an increasingly threatenting situation which could have become a catalyst for a confrontation between east and west, with China and/or Russia becoming involved.

But mainly, God was dealing with certain men of God that I was aware of that the time was short. One man that I know of, and have heard him give his testimony, had a personal visitation from the Lord (that is, the Lord appeared to him and told him that He was coming soon.) In my own experience, durint the years of 1966-67, I went through a series of unusual experiences of the presence of the Lord (I am reluctant to call them "visitations", but the sense of being in the presence of the Lord was very real). During this time the Lord opened my understanding in only what I can call a "supernatural way" to the prophetic visions of the book of Revelation and other end-time prophetic truths. Much I committed to writing. I can only say that during these unusual experiences was a very vivid sense of the Lord's very soon return.

Now IF (I cannot say that "I know") the Lord's return was planned for some date in the late 60's, then a Divinely pre-ordained "delay" of about a half an hour (about 20 years) would place His return, with no further delay, in the late 1980's. In His plan, we know that there will come a date beyond which He will absolutely no longer delay. In Rev. 10:5-7, we read of a "great angel" lifting up His hand to heaven and swaring by Him who lives forever, that there should "be time no longer: but in the days of the voice of of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." We know that at this point in Revelation "time" does not cease, for there are other events that follow, so most scholars believe that the correct translation should be: "that there shall be delay no longer" (as given in the New American Standard and other modern English translations). Vs. 7 of Rev. 10 the Lord terminates the "delay" period: "that the mystery of God should be finished (completed--brought to its climax and conclusion). We have already noted that the "mystery", as revealed to the apostle Paul, has to do with the church, and the Lord cannot complete His purpose for the church in the climactic stages of this age until He returns and "calls out" (the word church means "called out ones") that portion of His church which is to be His Bride (translating and glorifying their bodies)--then and ONLY then can His "mystery" concerning the rest of the church be finished.

Now IF, as the Scriptures certainly seem to indicate, The Lord had a pre-ordained plan to "delay" His return to planet earth, then there must be a reason or several reasons which were foreseen by Divine providence as a necessary part of such a strategy. I would like to suggest the following:

First, the delay provides the Lord with the opportunity to TEST Christians under certain circumstances that would not be possible in any other way. The Word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents (motives) of the heart (Heb. 4:12), but such "discerning" or "judging" of our motives is most "revealing" when exposed in the context of definite events and circumstances

Fourth, more time for evil's "cup of iniquity" to come to its full. Read the Old Testament. You will find that always, before God brings judgment upon a nation or people, the insidious "ferment" of evil has to fully permeate the society, or certain segments of the society, before God's fury can no longer be restrained and He "brings an end" to that which has become totally unredeemable. And when God is bringing and end to that which must be removed, He is also establishing something that has a fresh and new beginning. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised to him and his seed the land of Canaan. But God declared to Abraham concerning this promise: "thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither (the land of Canaan) again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (Gen. 15:15-16). The "Amorites" was a general term describing the people who inhabited Canaan at the time God made the promise to Abraham. God also told Abraham that his seed would be "strangers" in a land that was not theirs and be afflicted (in Egypt) 400 years, but also "that nation whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they (the seed of Abraham) would come out with great substance" (Gen. 15:13-14). In other words, when the time came for Abraham's seed to be delivered out of Egypt, the iniquity of the Egyptians would also have come to its full, and with the judgments of the 10 plagues God would almost completely destroy that nation. Many other Biblical illustrations could be given, but I believe the preceding is sufficient to illustrate the point.

But now we are coming to the end of 6,000 years of man's probation--wherein the whole world (all nations) are involved in God's judgmental process. God has to consider the "fulness of iniquity" of all societies, or segments thereof, and bring the TIMING of all factors to a "head" at the same time. A "delay" in the Lord's coming has given the Lord the opportunity to evaluate (in order to determine the degree of judgment) the depths to which man's degredation will go, and to determine and regulate the "boundaries" thereof. Even religion's "iniquity" must come to a full. Iniquity in religion? Yes--there's plenty of it. This is pictured symbolically in Rev. 17:1-6 where John sees a woman who is a harlot, "arrayed in purple and scarlot colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication." Evil must be shown to be evil regardless of where it manifests--in the world or in religion, and if God decrees an extended time period to allow its abominable and filthy nature to manifest more fully, then God's purpose in its exposure is more fully fulfilled, and He is seen to be even more just when "the wine of His wrath is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation"(Rev. 14:10).

Fifth, to maneuver and "position" all nations for the final "Armageddon" (Rev. 16:16). Before commenting on this, I want to give some latest information on the Russian Beast. The following appeared in the Washington Post by columnist Jack Anderson. "I just listened to the speeches at the Democratic Convention where they were saying that Pres. Reagen has led us into an arms race. He had made outer space a war zone, etc., as if he without any reason whatsoever has sought to arm this country and he's forced the Soviet's into an arms race. We stopped building--we practically scrapped our military and and our defenses under Carter, and the provocation is the Soviet Union. They have built up the mightiest war machine in the history of the world. What Pres. Reagan dismissed in early April as regular military maneuvers (comment: you probably read in the news that in the spring the Russians massed the largest number of ships and other military craft ever assembled by any nation for military practice maneuvers or "war games" as they call them) has since been shown to be that what the Soviets were doing turned out to have been a massive, unprecedented exercise that included the launching of six nuclear

balance", tested, and "positioned" for the final showdown. Dramatic changes have been made, for example in Jamaica and Granada (although by different methods). All of central American hangs in the balance--even Mexico. A lot depends upon the forsight and determination of American leadership. Observations could be made concerning the "ebb and flow" in other parts of the world, but lack of space will not permit this time.

Finally, I believe the Lord's delay gives man the opportunity to fulfill the first commission even given to him, as recorded in Gen. 1:28: "Be fruitful and multiply and FILL the earth." (NAS version). I believe that before the Lord returns to this earth, he has determined that (according to his perspective) the earth be FILLED UP. I believe that from the beginning He planned that a specific number of the spirit children which He had fathered (see Heb.12:9) be given the opportunity to be "clothed" with a physical body and born upon this earth. Man has thwarted this purpose by murdering multiplied millions of babies (called "abortion"). This is not only a "stench" in the "nostrils" of God, but is hindering His purpose. Some might say that the earth is already over-populated. This is not true! In some places--yes, but this is only because of man's stupid practice of cramming millions of people into "ant-hills" called "cities". Nations that seem over-crowded, like India, could easily raise enough food for their own people and even export food products, if they did not allow millions of cows, mice, rats, etc. (that that they worship and therefore cannot kill) roam the land eating millions of tons of food that should be eaten by humans. I recently read that the population of the earth is 4.8 billion. Could God's goal be 5 billion--one billion for each of the 5 continents? Or "5" because it is the number of freedom through His grace, and when that number is reached He will be "free" to release all creation from the bondage into the freedom spoken of in Rom. 8:19-23). I do not know; I am only suggesting some possibilities. But that orignal commission to FILL the earth MUST be fulfilled!

The following is a significant item which was given by Doug Clark, a teacher of prophecy on his TV program. Although I do not agree with much that he teaches, he gathers documentation on many things going on in the world which have a bearing on the prophetic "picture". He quoted the following: "No bank cards, no credit cards, no check books, no cash--just the invisible mark on your hand or forehead invisible to the human eye. This is the crux of an experiment begun in Sweden last March of 1983 and continuing now. Six thousand people agreed to take part in this experiment. Each person involved has received a special mark shot on the revelent area with a special painless ray gun and is now marked for life; it doesn't come off. The mark is registered in a computer and will register in banks or wherever those marked decide to shop. The shopkeeper simply runs an electronic pen over the mark over the hand and it instantly sends that person's number to a computer center from where all information of their transactions is sent to their bank. No money needs to be touched."

There is a difference of opinion among Bible students as to whether the reference in Rev. 13:16-17 refers to a literal mark or is simply symbolic. I believe the evidence points more and more to the use of a literal mark, put on a person as described above. The technology is now available. It would help simplify and facilitate keeping track of every person and all of their transactions in a totalitarian society. Keep in mind that it is Beast # 2 of Rev. 13:11-17 which seeks to impose this mark on all people. I believe this second Beast to be the attempted World Government arising out of the present United Nations--which will be dominated (and controlled) by Beast #1, which is Communist--headed by Russia. Since most nations of the world are even now ruled by totalitarian governments (although not all communist),their

governments would no doubt be glad to implement such technology that would so "mark" their citizens as to more easily control and regulate them. Of the 157 nations now a part of the United Nations, only a few democracies remain. Even Sweden (where this experiment is taking place), while retaining some democratic procedures is a Socialist State which regulates the lives of its people from the cradle to the grave, having become the "big brother god" (keeper) of the people. All nations which will be a part of the "Union of World Socialist Republics" (a suggested name for that which will emerge from the United Nations) will be required to "mark" their citizens (although many individuals in these nations will refuse to take the mark and suffer the consequences.) But I am convinced that some nations where "revival fires" will be burning, and the "spirit of Christ" permeating high governmental positions will WITHDRAW from this abominable federation of nations and will NOT require their citizens to be marked. As an example "forerunner", the United States has given notice that by the end of this year it will withdraw from UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), and cease all financial support. Why? Because, according to U.S. officials, this agency of the U.N.O. has completely departed from its original goals, and has become little more than "an agency for Communist propaganda". A short time ago, this agency tried to get a resolution passed that would require all member nations to have a government controled press--ala Communist style--after all the "IMAGE" (likeness) of the BEAST must be implemented in all nations that are a part of this emerging SUPER-STATE. May God hasten the day when our beloved nation (and others of like-mind, will completely withdraw from this "refuge of lies", for at present "with hell are we in agreement" and "under falsehood have we hid ourselves" (see Isa. 28:15). Beloved, while the Lord "tarried", are your "loins girded" with truth, and your "lights burning" brightly? (see Luke 12:35). May it be so! Take courage--live for Christ!

WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP

missiles towards the United States, presumably unarmed, but nevertheless they were launched on a trajectory towards the United States over the North Pole. For one thing, the CIA discovered that an entire Soviet city was evacuated during the exercise in a test of civil defense measures that would accompany a nuclear war. Second, even more significant, the exercise supported the Pentegon suspicions that the Soviet's supposedly intermediate range SS 20 missile may now have to be counted as an Intercontinental missile capable of hitting targets throughout the United States. It was the SS 20 massive deployment in eastern Europe that forced NATO to arm and receive U.S. missiles; most people forget that. The defense Intelligence Agents have spotted something peculiar and alarming about some of the mobile SS 20's located in northern Russia early in 1981. The launchers appeared to be aimed at the United States and not Western Europe. But after April's large scale Soviet war games, the CIA is now conceeding that the SS 20's may have to be counted as ICBM's (Intercontinental Balistic Missiles). What changed the agency's mind is that the Soviets launched six of these missiles from the western town of Urah on the northern trajectory--that is, on the polar route toward the United States, not toward Europe. The missiles presumably armed with only dummy war-heads were destroyed after they reached outer space. But the very fact of their launching towards us demonstrates the huge myth (that Russians are not seriously preparing for a nuclear war). More nuclear missiles may be aimed at the U.S. than previously had been thought. Here's why: top secret estimates put the number of the mobile SS 20 launchers at more than 400. Each launcher is believed to have 5 missiles and each SS 20 carries 3 independent retargeted warheads capable of a half megaton nuclear blast. That means a total of more than 6,000 warheads that could be landed on the United States that had not previously been counted. The SS 20 is accurate within 300 yards of its target." (Underlining added-L.E.)

Just think, during this time of the delay or "tarrying of the Bridegroom" how much greater the potential for destruction has increased. Certainly God knew this would happen during such a delay. It seems that His desire is to intensify the horrific reality of man's depraved desires and hideous plans when under the control of Satan and his demonic hosts. Also, it seems God is going to give Satan the maximum time to build (and "arm") a "Beast" power that will seem (in the natural) totally unchallengable, so that when the final "showdown" comes, those nations which choose NOT to serve the Beast, will have to humble themselves and CALL upon the ALMIGHTY for help. Although the O.T. gives examples of how God supernaturally acted on behalf of His people (and will do so again in the final conflict of this age), God more often uses natural means, but directed by Him, to bring judgment and/or intervention. He uses one nation to judge another nation.

God judges nations as well as individuals. If a nation were truly righteous, it would need no military arms for protection. God would be the absolute protection. But there is no such nation. Take the U.S. for example. Since we have turned our back on God in so many ways, and because we have sunk to the depths of moral polution and degredation equaled only by ancient Sodom and Gomorrah, God is going to require that we fight for our very existence (as a part of His judgment upon us). But because there are many Christians in America who have been seeking God and praying, God, in His mercy, chose in 1980 to give us a President who was not afraid of or "duped" by the "evil empire"(his own words unsed in a speech) of Communism. Because the Lord has "delayed", He has given this president the opportunity and courage to reverse the suicidal policy of unilateral disarmament which was previously being pursued. I will not comment further on God's strategy for this nation at this time. But much more needs to be said and I will save that for future.

During this time of "delay", all nations are being "weighed in the

in the experiences of our lives. When considering this in light of what I consider the overwhelming evidence and multitudinous signs which have been present and increasing over a number of years, most Christians who are aware of this and living in expectancy of the Lord's return, tend to have a greater motiviation to give themselves to seeking the Lord, study of His Word, and generally want to live in the conscious awareness of how to please the Lord. However, when year after year goes by and the Lord has not returned, the human tendency, even among Christians, is to lose the "cutting edge" of their spiritual interest and "pursuit" of Christ as the primary focus of their lives, and become somewhat careless and indifferent, or even worse begin to turn to more "worldly pursuits" and like the steward of Lk. 12:45 let the carnality of the heart get the "upper hand" in one's life and attitudes. The language of Lk. 12:45 need not be taken absolutely literally, but indicative of an attitude of selfish ambition which begins to take advantage of others for one's own advancement, and the "imbibing of the "spirit" of this world to where one becomes insensitive to spiritual things. The ultimate in this process is described in Mt. 24:12: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many (Christians) shall wax cold." The increasing allurements of a pleasure-mad world become too much to resist, and love for the Lord gets put into "cold storage". Tragically, I have seen this happen. People whose dedication to the Lord seemed to be solid and steadfast, but time goes by, the Lord delays His coming, allurements of the world increase, and gradually these people drift into worldly pursuits, sometimes even flagrant sin, and this "testing time" of the Lord's delay finds them woefully wanting.

Secondly, the Lord's delay gives more time for the Bride to get ready. I was watching, not long ago, a program of the PTL club on television. A man from the audience gave a testimony of how, as a truck driver, he had a nearly fatal accident. While in the hospital, doctors working frantically over him, they seemingly "lost" him several times, only to "revive" his vital life signs several times. He said that at one of these times, he actually left his physical body and went to a place where Jesus appeared and talked with him. He did not have time in his testimony to tell all that the Lord said, but he emphasized with great emotion that the Lord told him to go back and "tell my people that I am ready to come for my Bride, but my Bride is not ready." Only God knows the depth of the work which must be done in each one who is to be a part of the Bride company, but according to the Scriptures the Bride MUST be ready. In Mt. 25:10 we read that "they that were ready went in with him (Jesus) to the marriage." And in Rev. 19:7 the message is clear: "Letus be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." This again is a test for those who aspire to the "high calling" of the Bride company. As they wait, lamps trimmed and burning (Lk. 12:35), will they continue to "pursue" Jesus with all their hearts and make Him the supreme desire and love of their lives?

Third, more time for sinners to be saved and enter the Kingdom. II Pet. 3:3-9speaks of the time in which we live, wherein "scoffers" will say "where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." In other words, "you Christians say Christ is going to return soon, yet year after year goes by and all things continue just the same, so you must be wrong, for what you say seems ridiculous." But then Peter reminds them in vs. 9 why the seeming failure on the part of God to fulfill what Christians keep heralding as a promise of Jesus' return: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness: but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The Lord, in His mercy, delays, that more people might be reached with the "saving news" of His glorious gospel and receive LIFE unending.

dence of it in the sacred scriptures. This evidence I will present first. Jesus did not "play around with words". The very implication indicating what could take place in what He spoke, certainly indicates that such would come to pass, I'm sure there are many scriptures that I cannot immediately recall, or am not aware of, but will now quote just a few and then later make some comments on them, as well as others that come to mind. In the parable of the servants who were to be watchful for their Master's return (Lk. 12:35-48), although not specifically stated, there seems to be an indication that the Master, who had gone away for some reason, did not return just when the servants had expected, and thus we read of the servant who said "my lord delayeth his coming" (12:45) and begins to be irresponsible and careless, instead of faithfully watching for His Master's return and to be attentive in diligently seeking to take are of His Master's business. In Mt. 25:1-13, in the parable of the ten virgins, because of expectancy of nearness of arrival, the virgins went out to meet the bridegroom, but "while the bridegroom tarried" they became weary of waiting and began to slumber and sleep. In Rev. 7:1-3, we read of four angels holding the four winds (of judgment) to be released on the earth. Evidently the angels had already had their instructions as to the time of their release, but another angel comes on the scene and tells them to "hold" the winds "till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads" (indicating that more time was needed--thus a delay.) In Rev. 8:1-6, when the seventh seal was opened, and the seven trumpets prepared to sound, suddenly "there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour".

When you read the book of Revelation, you will find that it is based on a pattern that first something happens in heaven, then as a consequence, certain events take place on earth. This pattern is repeated over and over to show that God controls the historical progression of events on earth by His pre-planned symbolic portrayal of certain Divinely ordained actions in heaven. What then can we conclude about the fact that suddenly interposed in these symbolic acts in heaven, just before the seventh seal is opened, which is the number of the church--and during which seal all events concerning the church (including the translation of the firstfuits saints) come to their final climax and conclusion--that suddenly there is interposed a half hour of silence. This could only mean (based on the pattern of the book of Revelation) that certain Divinely initiated events that were to transpire on earth are "held in abeyance": in other words, "a delay". And this delay has to do with His church. And as we have seen from other scriptures, there is definitely an indication of a delay in Jesus' return with regard to certain "elect" ones, and the subsequent judgments to follow.

Just what time schedule is God's "measuring-stick" in Rev. 8:1, I do not know. But certainly one half hour in heaven, would have nothing to do with the way ~~man~~ man measure's such time on earth. We do know that the Word of God indicates that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Pet. 3:8). Based on this time perspective, an hour would equate to just over 41 years, and a half an hour to approximately 20½ years. However, since Rev. 8:1 says "about the space of half an hour", we would have to allow a variance of a couple of years longer or shorter. Now I am not saying that I know that this is the correct interpretation of Rev. 8:1, nor that the Lord in His Divine providence definitely determined to "delay" His coming about 20 years. Even if we could say we knew this, we have no way of knowing the time-date when such a "delay" began.

I would, however, like to make the following observations. I can vividly remember that in the late 1960's, there were many diligently seeking saints that seemed to have indication from the Lord in one way or another (I won't discuss here the reasons, or the apparent indicators) that the Lord's return